



**McGregor W. Scott**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel: (916) 554-2700  
TTY: (916) 554-2855

**NEWS RELEASE**

*Fresno*  
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel: (559) 498-7272  
TTY: (559) 498-7499

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Contact: Stan Boone, 559-498-7272  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**LOCAL BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY INDICTED FOR FORGING**  
**A BANKRUPTCY JUDGE'S ORDER**

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a single count indictment was returned against local bankruptcy attorney JOHN PETER ELEAZARIAN, 54, of Fresno, for forging a bankruptcy judge's order.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the United States Trustee. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in Fresno, California.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who is prosecuting this case, ELEAZARIAN was representing a bankruptcy client whose car had been improperly repossessed by the creditor. Despite repeated requests by the debtor to get her car back, the defendant failed to act for over seven months. In response to the repeated requests, the defendant provided the debtor with a forged order, purportedly signed by United States Bankruptcy Judge W. Richard Lee, stating that the creditor had improperly taken the debtor's vehicle, and that the debtor was entitled to sanctions in the amount of \$20,000.

The charged count carries a maximum of 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

The charge is only an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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